

The Sacred Place Where Life Begins

Gwich'in Women Speak

Together we can protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge



ABOUT THE FILM

The coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska is the birthing and nursing ground for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, on which the Gwich'in people who are native to this region have depended for millennia. In their language, they call this land *The Sacred Place Where Life Begins*.

Since 1986, the coastal plain has been threatened by oil and gas development. In the film, Gwich'in women speak out for their sacred land and inspire audiences around the world to action.



ABOUT
MIHO AIDA

Miho Aida, originally from Tokyo, Japan, is a filmmaker, environmental educator and outdoor adventurer in California.

She is recognized for her inspirational project called "*If She Can Do It, You Can Too: Empowering Women Through Outdoor Role Models*." This project promotes media representation of diverse women who pursue outdoor adventures and who develop powerful social, environmental and human rights movements within the backdrop of nature.

Her first film *The Sacred Place Where Life Begins - Gwich'in Women Speak* received the First Place Documentary Film at the 2015 Central Illinois Feminist Film festival and Audience Choice Award at the 2014 Earth Port Film Festival.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The 2015 Central Illinois Feminist Film Festival First Place Documentary Film
The 2014 Earth Port Film Festival Audience Choice Award
The 2013 American Indian Film Festival Nominee of Best Documentary Short

OFFICIAL SELECTION

The 2015 Queer Women of Color Film Festival
The 2015 Central Illinois Feminist Film Festival
The 2015 Peace on Earth Film Festival
The 2015 Wild and Scenic Film Festival On Tour
The 2015 Wild and Scenic Film Festival
The 50th Anniversary National Wilderness Conference Film Gala
The 2014 Global Peace Film Festival
The 2013 American Indian Film Festival

2015 Bicycle Film Tour 1,000 miles for 1,000 allies



From Washington DC to Bar Harbor, Maine, Miho is riding her bicycle to share the film with people and empower them to take action to urge the U.S. Congressional representatives in these areas to cosponsor the Arctic Wilderness Bill H.R.239.

www.mihoaida.com/gwichin

